



**FoodChange
New York, NY**

Project Title	Education Through LIFE
Contact Information	Steven Young-Jun Lee 39 Broadway New York, NY 10006 (212) 894-8081
Grant Amount	\$69,000
Nonfederal Support	\$104,110
Project Period	September 2004 – September 2009
Highlights	Education Through LIFE will assist 30 participants from Harlem with opening IDAs to attend college or vocational school. The program will recruit participants from agency tax preparation services and will require participants to open IDAs with a portion of their Earned Income Tax Credit refunds. Participant contributions will be matched at a \$2 to \$1 rate. The program will offer participants 10 monthly classroom seminars, one-on-one counseling, and assistance accessing public benefits, if necessary. Partner banks will provide in-kind support of financial education classes and will hold the IDAs.
Target Population	Low-income residents of Harlem in New York City, especially households using FoodChange's tax preparation services.
Grantee/Collaborative Description	<p>Founded 24 years ago as the Community Food Resource Center, FoodChange promotes access to nutritious food and adequate income through multiple projects located in Harlem. FoodChange is among the nation's largest provider of free income tax assistance, preparing nearly 25,000 tax returns that have restored more than \$45 million to clients.</p> <p>FoodChange partner organizations for the Education Through LIFE program include Independence Community Bank, Carver Federal Savings Bank, Commerce Bank, GreenPoint Savings Bank, the Mayor's Office of Health Insurance Access, the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service, the New York City Council, two of the city's largest labor unions (SEIU/1199, DC-37), the City University of New York, and several investment and accounting firms.</p>